

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3694

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: NEW GOVERNMENT

1. NEW GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 8? PRIME MINISTER TOLD POLCOUNS
AT LUNCH ON AUGUST 7 THAT NEW CABINET WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AT
MIDDAY AUG 8. WE HAVE HEARD FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT
GEN. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO DOES NOT INTEND TO SERVE AS
A VICE PRIME MINISTER IN THE CABINET AND HAS OPTED TO CONTINUE
ONLY WITH THE COPCON COMMAND AND AS DIRECTORY MEMBER.

2. CABINET CHANGES: ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES THE FOLLOWING
CHANGES IN THE CABINET ARE LIKELY:

--PROF. JOSE JOAQUIM TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO, VICE PM.

--MAJOR ANTONIO METELO, VICE PM -- FORMER INTERION MINISTER,

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FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OF PRIME MINISTER IN ARMY ENGINEERS.

--MAJOR JOSE MANUEL BARROCO, VICE PM -- NO BIO AVAILABLE YET.

--MARIO RUIVO, FOREIGN MINISTER -- NOW SERVING AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES. A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER, IF NOT A PARTY MEMBER.

--LCDR ANTONIO DE BRITO, INDUSTRIES, NO BIO AVAILABLE YET.

--PEREIRA DE MOURA, SOCIAL AFFAIRS -- NEW SERVING AS MDP MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT PEREIRA DE MOURA HAS BEEN SUPPORTING A POSITION THAT WOULD MOVE THE MDP AWAY FROM ITS CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER THERE IS STILL SOME QUESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED BY FRIDAY. ROSA COUTINHO, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 7 THAT A GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMED.

4. ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S AIDES TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ANNOUNCE NEW CABINET AND WOULD GIVE A "MODERATE" SPEECH WHEN DOING SO. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT THE OVERALL POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE. THERE SEEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO BE SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER PCP LEADER CUNHAL WILL RETURN TO THE CABINET. NEVERTHELESS, PROBABLY MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WILL BE REPLACEMENT OF MODERATE MELO ANTUNES WITH PCP SYMPATHIZER RUIVO AS FOREIGN MINISTER. IN ANY CASE, TODAY'S READING OF THE LIKELY CABINET COMPOSITION SHOWS NO DIMINISHMENT OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE.
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